

## Message Text

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 06735 141049Z

11  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 EUR-12

/053 W

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R 140745Z JUL 75K  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2491

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6735

STADIS//////////

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, BA, IR,US  
SUBJECT: RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR AT BAHRAIN

REF: STATE 164810

1. AS TEHRAN 6630 NOTES GOI POLICY RE "FOREIGN BASES" IN REGION IS FIXED. AN INTEGRAL FEATURE OF THIS POLICY IS THE LINKAGE BETWEEN SOVIET AND US PRESENCE IN THE AREA. THE SHAH HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN SAYING THAT AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS ARE IN IRAQ, THEN HE SEES NO REASON WHY THE US CANNOT BE IN THE AREA AS WELL AND HE HAS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED MIDEASTFOR IN MAKING THIS STATEMENT. IT OF COURSE FOLLOWS THAT IF THE SOVIETS VACATE THE GULF, THEN THE SHAH WOULD EXPECT THAT WE WOULD DO LIKEWISE.

2. AS YOU KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN PUBLIC DECLARATIONS AND PRIVATE DIALOGUE BY THE LITTORAL STATES ABOUT REACHING SOME KIND OF MUTUAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE AREA WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE OUTSIDE PRESENCE. IF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COMES TO PASS AND IS IMPLEMENTED, WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THEN OF COURSE WE WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE ALONG WITH THE SOVIETS.

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3. WHILE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WE CAN SEE THE LOGIC OF TRYING TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN BY PERSUADING BAHRAIN NOT TO SET A TERMINAL DATE FOR COMMIDEASTFOR'S DEPARTURE AND PERHAPS IN THIS CONTEXT USING THE US-USSR LINKAGE ARGUMENT,

I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL OR DESIRABLE FOR US TO TRY  
AND GET THE IRANIANS TO MAKE A SPECIAL PLEA ON OUR BEHALF.  
INDEED IT MIGHT ONLY INVITE AN IRRITATED REJOINDER THAT  
THEIR POLICY IS PUBLIC AND WELL KNOWN AND IF BAHRAIN DOES  
NOT CHOOSE TO AGREE WITH IT, THERE IS NOTHING IT CAN DO ABOUT  
IT. FURTHERMORE, EVEN IF WE WERE TO PERSUADE IRAN TO  
APPROACH BAHRAIN ONCE AGAIN, WE WOULD ASSUME THEY WOULD  
DO IT PRIVATELY AS THEY DID THE LAST TIME WHICH,  
AS THE BAHRAINIS HAVE COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR TWINAM,  
IS OF NO HELP TO THEM IN DEALING WITH THEIR ARAB NEIGHBORS  
ON THIS ISSUE.  
HELMS

SECRET

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